for its further improvement. A questionnaire was issued by the committee to a large number of persons and institutions interested in the Co-operative movement in the State. A digest has been prepared of the replies received thereto. The committee examined several persons and inspected a few typical societies during their tours. It is hoped that the committee will be able to submit their final report by the close of Tulam 1109. Provision has therefore been made for the continuance of the committee till that date. A provision of Rs 7,000 has been made in the budget for 1109 for the purchase of house sites in urban areas for depressed classes and for sinking wells in their colonies and settlements. The office of the Protector of Depressed classes is also proposed to be slightly strengthened on account of additional work. The increase in the volume of work relating to the tabulation of figures, issue of audit orders, etc., in connection with the preparation of the annual report of the Co-operative Department requires the continuance of the Temporary Assistant Registrar at least until the Devadhar Committee submit their final report. Provision is therefore made in the budget for 1109 for the continuance of the post of Assistant Registrar and for a temporary additional establishment. Provision is also made for the continuance of the existing five Group Secretaries for Co-operative Societies of Depressed Classes, and of the seven temporary Inspectors and their peons for the whole of 1109.

26. *Miscellaneous Departments.*—A lump provision of Rs. 15,000 has been made in the budget for the appointment of Trade Agents. A small provision has also been made for the translation of the Census Report into Malayalam.

27. *Public works.*—The allotment for ordinary P.W.D. expenditure in the next year including establishment charges and Tools and Plant is Rs 30·56 lakhs as against Rs 29 lakhs for the current year. This does not include the expenditure on Capital Works executed by the Public Works and Electrical departments which is met out of the accumulated surplus of previous years. When the estimated outlay on Capital Works is also taken into account the budget grant for the next year amounts to Rs 49·11 lakhs. Besides for the continuance of the existing temporary staff for the investigation of minor irrigation in the State, provision is made for the continuance of the temporary staff sanctioned in the current year for investigation of a Drainage Scheme for the Trivandrum Town. An allotment of Rs ·27 of a lakh has been provided for the purpose under Establishment besides Rs 5,000 under Incomplete Works. Provision has also been made for the investigation of Town-Planning schemes. Full details of the works in progress and new works are given in Appendix B to the Budget Estimates. The works proposed to be executed by the P. W. D. next year out of the Road Development Fund amount to Rs 2·17 lakhs as detailed in Appendix D. Since the last monsoon, difficulties are being experienced in shipping at Alleppey owing to the rapid accretions of sand. Arrangements are being made for the extension of the Silver Jubilee Pier at Alleppey and a provision of Rs 30,000 has been made

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[Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai.]

for the purpose in the next year's budget under New Works. Special repairs to the Pier are also now being carried on and the estimated expenditure in the current year is Rs 50,000 while a provision of Rs 25,000 has been made in the budget for the next year.

28. *Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.*—With a view to afford relief to the families of officers in Government service dying in harness or within one year after retirement, a scheme of compassionate gratuities has been introduced with effect from 1st Vrischigam 1108. The minimum service required for the grant of the gratuity is 5 year's service qualifying for pension. The gratuity will be calculated at one month's pay for every year of qualifying service, based on the monthly pay on 1st Chingam each year. The maximum service for which the gratuity will be allowed is 30 years. The maximum monthly pay for calculating the gratuity has been fixed as Rs 400 and the maximum amount of the gratuity as Rs 3,000. In the case of pensioners the amount of pension drawn will be deducted from the gratuity calculated as above. The expenditure in the current year is expected to stand at Rs 1,500. An allotment of Rs 20,000 has been provided for the payment of gratuity next year.

29. *The Public Service Recruitment Committee.*—This Committee which was appointed to enquire into and report on the question of placing the system of recruitment to Public Service on a definite basis began its work in Chingam of the current year. The report is expected to be ready by the close of this year and provision is made in the budget for the next year for one month only.

30. *Village Panchayats.*—Six Panchayats have been organised during the current year and three more are proposed to be organised during the coming year, one at Kumarakam in the Kottayam Division and the others at Ayiroor and Kundara in the Quilon Division. A provision of Rs 10,000 is proposed for the payment of contribution to the Panchayats under Section 44 (3) of the Village Panchayats Regulation.

31. *Anchal.*—For the speedy transmission of mails it is proposed to introduce motor mail service between Vaikam and Ettumanoor and also between Ettumanoor and Poonjar, in place of the present runner service. The runner service between Vandamettu and Udumbanshola abolished from Edavam 1107 is also proposed to be resumed, as transmission of mails by motor along a circuitous route has led to much delay. Consequent on the formation and working of a number of Insurance companies, the volume of work in some of the Anchal Offices and in the Anchal Superintendent's Office has increased. The entertainment of a temporary additional staff was therefore sanctioned during the current year. It is proposed to continue this staff next year also.

32. *State Land Mortgage Bank.*—Last year I had made mention of the opening of the Land Mortgage Bank as a Government concern. The Bank grants loans for the liquidation of prior debts on land, the minimum and maximum limits being Rs 250 and Rs 3,000 respectively.

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